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New Poll: Florida Medicaid Expansion Amendment Starts with Strong Support as State Faces Looming Healthcare Crisis

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, **Florida Decides Healthcare (FHD)** has <u>released a</u> <u>public opinion poll</u> highlighting Floridians' overwhelming support for expanding Medicaid through a constitutional amendment — a move that would provide health coverage to over one million residents and bring billions of Floridians' taxpayer dollars back to the state.

As Florida braces for devastating consequences from recent federal healthcare changes, the campaign begins in a commanding position, with 67% of likely 2026 voters backing the amendment, only 25% opposed and 8% undecided — well above the 60% threshold needed to pass. Also, when undecideds are allocated to "yes" or "no" based on their baseline support for Medicaid expansion, the vote improves to 71% Yes, 27% No and 2 percent remain undecided. The turnout model for this poll was intentionally conservative as it was based on the 2022 and 2024 election turnout results, meaning these results may understate the broadsweeping support of this proposal.

Voters agree the time to act is now. The new survey, conducted by **Global Strategy Group**, shows support for the amendment grows to 74% after voters hear more about who is impacted and how Florida is forfeiting its tax dollars by not expanding Medicaid. Support remains strong even when voters hear opposition arguments, staying above the 60% constitutional threshold.

National polling shows huge and increasing support for Medicaid across party and ideological lines, with 84% of voters overall, including 93% of Democrats, 87% of independents, and 77% of Republicans, holding favorable opinions of the program.

"Floridians are ready for change. This polling confirms what we've known all along — voters want Medicaid expansion. Florida is at a breaking point. Without Medicaid expansion, we are heading straight into a healthcare catastrophe," said **Mitch Emerson, Executive Director at Florida Decides Healthcare**. "These aren't just

numbers. These are parents working two jobs who still can't afford to see a doctor. These are veterans who served our country. These are seniors on the edge and caregivers holding their families together. We pay for Medicaid through our federal taxes, yet we're the ones left behind. Medicaid expansion is the only path forward."

The polling comes at a critical time. With the passage of the recent federal reconciliation bill and imminent expiration of the ACA tax credit enhancements Florida is poised to suffer more than any other state due to its refusal to expand Medicaid. Starting January 1, an <u>estimated 3.7</u> million Floridians — including veterans, primary caregivers, families, and people working multiple jobs — could be left without health coverage as ACA subsidies are rolled back and individuals fall into the "coverage gap."

Florida ranks 47th in the nation for healthcare affordability. At the same time, it leads the country in ACA Marketplace enrollment, meaning the rollback of subsidies in 2026 will hit Florida harder than any other state. With no expansion in place, and no backup plan, the number of Floridians without coverage will double, overwhelming the state's healthcare infrastructure and sending costs spiraling for everyone. Experts predict that 50,000 healthcare workers will <u>lose their jobs</u> and there will be up to <u>7,000 unnecessary</u> <u>annual deaths</u> unless we pass this amendment.

Instead of expanding Medicaid at home, Florida continues to send billions of our taxpayer dollars to other states who are expanding Medicaid, like New York and California. By passing this amendment, Florida would bring back an estimated \$10.5 billion in federal taxpayer dollars to provide coverage for more than 3.7 million residents and stabilize Florida's entire healthcare system.

About the Poll: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 800 likely 2026 voters in Florida between June 11 and June 17, 2025, prior to the passage of the federal reconciliation bill. The margin of error is $\pm 3.5\%$.

Background: The proposed amendment by FDH would expand Medicaid eligibility to adults aged 18 to 64 whose incomes fall at or below 138% of the federal poverty level — a group that includes 3.7 million Floridians who earn too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid but too little to afford private insurance. To date, the campaign has collected over 150,000 signature petitions to place Medicaid expansion on the 2026 ballot.